

B. Claims

Please amend claims 1-15 as follows. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~A dispersion of crystals or granules of active substance in a lipophilic vehicle, wherein said lipophilic vehicle has a solubilizing power for the active substance of less than 1.5 times the active substance concentration for which a taste is detected in water, and wherein said crystals or granules ~~being~~are coated by a coating for taste masking purposes.

[[3]]2. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the lipophilic vehicle is selected from the group consisting of vegetable oils, animal oils, tri-, di- or mono-glycerides of fatty acids, lipolysing oils, mineral oils, light waxes, vaseline, silicone oil, simethicons, mixtures of silicone oil and colloidal silica, and mixtures thereof.

[[4]]3. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the lipophilic vehicle additionally comprises additives selected from the group consisting of sweeteners, flavorings, colorants, thickeners, dispersants, effervescent agents, super-disintegrants, lipophilic surfactants, hydrophilic surfactants, hydrosoluble agents and mixtures thereof.

[[5]]4. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, in which the concentration of active substance in the dispersion is at most 75% by weight in relation to the weight of the dispersion.

[[6]]5. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the coating of the crystals or granules of active substance is selected from ethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, methacrylic copolymer, lipidic compounds, lipophilic compounds, polyethylene glycol behenate, glycerol palmitostearate, glycerol stearate, cetyl palmitate, glyceric macrogol beeswaxes, glycerol, PEG-32 stearate, Peg-32 palmitostearate, and mixtures thereof.

[[7]]6. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the coating represents between 5 and 50% by weight of the total weight of the coated granules or crystals.

[[8]]7. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the average size of the coated crystals or granules is less than 300 μm .

[[9]]8. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the granules of active substances and/or the coating for taste masking purposes can comprise additives from the group consisting of colorants, sweeteners, flavorings, effervescent agents, super-disintegrants, lipophilic surfactants, hydrophilic surfactants, hydrosoluble agents and mixtures thereof.

[[10]]9. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~The dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said lipophilic vehicle is a dimethicone, said coating being a mixture of ethyl cellulose and

hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, said coating representing 5% to 70% of the total weight of the dispersion.

[[11]]10. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~A chewable soft capsule comprising an outer envelope encapsulating ~~the a~~ dispersion ~~according to claim 1~~ of crystals or granules of active substance in a lipophilic vehicle, wherein said lipophilic vehicle has a solubilizing power for the active substance of less than 1.5 times the active substance concentration for which a taste is detected in water, and wherein said crystals or granules are coated by a coating for taste masking purposes.

[[12]]11. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~The soft capsule according to claim [[11]]10, in which the outer envelope comprises gelatin, a plasticizer, and at least one starch, optionally amylum acetate.

[[13]]12. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~The soft capsule according to claim [[12]]11, in which the composition of said envelope also comprises an additive chosen from the group consisting of sweeteners, flavorings, colorants, and mixtures thereof.

[[14]]13. (Currently Amended) ~~(i)~~The soft capsule according to claim [[11]]10, wherein the outer envelope comprises between 18 and 30% by wt. gelatin, between 30 and 45% by wt. of plasticizer, between 3 and 12% by wt. of starch or amylum acetate and up to 12% by wt., of an unbleached starch and water to 100%, with these percentages being percentages by weight in relation to the total weight of said envelope composition.

[[15]]14. (Currently Amended) ~~(ii)~~The soft capsule according to claim [[14]]13, in which the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of polyols, glycerol, xylitol, sorbitol, polyglycerol, non-crystallisable solutions of sorbitol, glucose, fructose, glucose syrups, and mixtures thereof.

[[16]]15. (Currently Amended) ~~(iv)~~A process for preparation of chewable soft capsules, comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing an outer envelope;
- b) as necessary preparing granules of active substance;
- c) coating the crystals of active substance or granules prepared above using a coating for taste masking purposes;
- d) as necessary dispersing additives in a lipophilic vehicle, wherein said lipophilic vehicle has a solubilizing power for the active substance of less than 1.5 times the active substance concentration for which a taste is detected in water, and optionally milling of this;
- e) dispersing the coated crystals or granules in the lipophilic vehicle;
- f) filling and sealing the capsules with said dispersion; and
- g) drying the capsules.